

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...and we need to address that here, as well. There are some things that we have pending in the committee that are not coming out, and, in fact, he mentions that, that some of that could be a part of the draft that we need to use. I think that maybe we had that opportunity on the floor, we need to address it. We want to do the best we can for the State of Nebraska. I think that I'm going to support this confirmation, but I'm going to be on the side of those that say, but let's make sure we get the safest and the best site we get, and I'm going to be on your side in that. So, with that, I ask the remainder of the body's support in this confirmation. Let's all go forward together and do the best job we can for our state in the future. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Smith's comments lead very much, I think, into a direction I'm going to go. I had something to do, I think, with the original choice of Dr. Thorson. I agreed with a lot of the points you made here today in terms of academic qualifications, he has them. In terms of legal qualifications, he has them. He is a renowned expert on compact law. Perhaps he has less skill in the area of group process and communicating some of those issues, but I think the point has been made earlier that I don't know if there is a single human being out there that could successfully perform this job, given the complexity of it. But I feel a need to stand up and speak about this because I have a continuing frustration with the process and with some of the things that need to be addressed. And I really feel, in a way, that Dr. Thorson isn't the issue here, the issue is the process, and the issue is the number of players involved. Not only are we involved as the Legislature, the Governor is involved, the affected communities are involved, other states are involved, the compact is involved, it is endlessly complex. There is probably nothing else that we deal with that is any more complex than this. And yet I have a frustration with the fact that we have not, in my opinion, aggressively pursued the issues of shared liability. Senator Morrissey mentioned my bill, LB 1232, doesn't have a priority, probably isn't going anywhere unless it's amended into another bill this year. I've been given